The elimination of every, even the slightest, chromatic aberration obtained by this means increases, in my opinion, the defining and penetrating power of the microscope, and enlarges its dominion on the field of observation. Different other means have been now and then suggested, such as an alcohol light saturated with chlorine of iodine, or a light passed through a stratum of cupreo-ammoniacal solution, or even through a glass of cobalt; all these lights may be very useful and for some special purpose even preferable to any other, as Dr. Woodward observed, speaking of photography; but for direct observations with the microscope, the effects obtained by them are by no means to be compared with the marvellous results of a mono-chromatic illumination. And I do not think it absolutely necessary for this purpose to have recourse to a beam of the *sun*, which in many countries less favored than Italy is not rarely a mere desideratum, and very often a dim, cloudy thing. A brilliant luminous point of electric light — a light obtained from oxhydrogenic flame — acting upon lime, magnesium, or zirconium, perhaps also the magnesium-wire lamp, may supply the deficiency of the sunbeam. Each of these simply white lights decomposed through a prism, will give a mono-chromatic illumination sufficient to reveal the best structural details, which up to this day have baffled the keenest researches of the student.— Count Castracane, *Monthly Microscopical Journal.*

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Supposed Indian Corn Huskers. — In the museum of the Smithsonian Institution are several Indian stone implements like that noticed on p. 16 of the present volume of this journal, which are said to bear a striking resemblance to iron corn huskers now in use in the West. —Eds.

NOTES.

At the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, Mr. Boyd Dawkins exhibited a number of casts in plaster of Paris of various objects of natural history, and explained the process by which any one can make them for himself. The material of the